

Weather Forecast

Bright, sunny, warmer today; high near 58. Low tonight near 35. Fair, warmer tomorrow.
Temperatures yesterday—Highest, 54, at 5:55 p.m.; lowest, 36, at 6:35 a.m.
United States Weather Bureau Report.

The Sunday Star

WITH DAILY EVENING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 25, 1945—NINETY-FOUR PAGES.

No. 2,082—No. 36,822.

Home Delivery
The Evening and Sunday Star is delivered by carrier in the city and suburbs at 90c per month when 4 Sundays; \$1.00 per month when 5 Sundays.
Telephone NA. 5000

An Associated Press Newspaper

Washington and Suburbs TEN CENTS 15 CENTS Elsewhere

CARRIER PLANES HIT TOKYO IN GREAT FORCE

1,600 in Air Flotilla; Japs Say; Yanks Roll On in Cologne Drive

Yokohama District Among Targets In Record Raid

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's task force, largest in the world, is sending waves of carrier planes against Tokyo today in strength estimated by the enemy at 1,600.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced in a special communiqué that Admiral Mitscher's mighty air arm, which kept the enemy fleet in hiding and overwhelmed Tokyo's defenses February 16 and 17, is back at it again.

A Tokyo broadcast, made while the raid was in progress, described it as even in greater strength than the two earlier attacks which destroyed or damaged 659 Japanese planes and 36 ships, including an escort carrier and three destroyers.

Fierce Air Battles Reported.
"Fierce aerial interceptive battles are taking place," the enemy claimed.

The broadcast said the raid was concentrated on the Kanto district which embraces Tokyo and Yokohama. It includes 10 neighboring prefectures.

Tokyo said the attack on the city of 8,000,000 people began at 7 a.m. Tokyo's claims drew no immediate Navy comment. The headquarters communiqué reported the raid without elaboration.

(The purpose of the new attack most likely is to keep cut up and pinned down any enemy home air fleet which could be sent 750 miles south to support the Japanese garrison being pushed back into the north half of invaded two Jima.)

From Tokyo to Yokohama
Admiral Nimitz said the carrier aircraft are attacking military, naval and air installations "in and around Tokyo."

As on the other two-day raid, which preceded the marine invasion of Iwo, Admiral Mitscher's task force is backed by mighty 45,000-ton battleships and lesser units of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance's 5th Fleet.

The 5th is in such great strength that it can send a force large enough to handle anything the Japanese home fleet might offer while other big units constantly shell two or three square miles in support of the main force.

In the seventh day of their invasion there.

Admiral Nimitz made no reference to the size of the carrier force but the enemy radio reports indicated it was larger than that of February 16 and 17 when some 1,500 Hellcats, Helldivers and Avengers blasted Tokyo's 200-odd square miles.

Thus the 5th Fleet once more is challenging the Japanese fleet, twice trounced in engagements dating back to last June, to come out and fight.

In the February 16-17 onslaught, not an American warship was damaged, but 49 raiding planes were lost along with between 30 and 40 pilots.

The nature of the targets specified as under attack now supports the likelihood that the new assault is as powerful as was that earlier in the month—the first such large-scale carrier attack of the war on Japan proper.

B-29s Report Good Results in Singapore Raid

More than 150 Super Fortresses of Brig. Gen. Robert M. Ramey's Indian-based 20th Bomber Command blasted Japanese docks and repair facilities at Singapore yesterday and reported "good results." Observers in the last waves of B-29's saw a column of smoke rising 20,000 feet over the giant naval base.

Results of the raid, which is believed to have dealt a heavy blow to Japanese naval repair facilities, were announced at headquarters of the 20th Air Force here.

The first planes to approach Singapore, built by the British as their Indian ocean bastion, encountered poor visibility on approaching their objective, reports said. Fortunately, just as they reached their target, they found a hole in the clouds and were able to bomb visually rather than relying on instruments.

Only weak fighter opposition was encountered during the raid, pilots reported, and none of the B-29's was lost to enemy action. Three enemy aircraft are believed to have been damaged.

40 Draft Evaders Reported Freed by Mob in Quebec

BOSTON, Feb. 25.—The Boston Globe said tonight that scores of persons were injured when more than 2,000 citizens of Drummondville, Quebec, attacked mounted police and provost marshals as they attempted to round up about 40 draft dodgers.

Marines Seize Half of Second Iwo Airfield

Up to 500 Yards Gained Against Fierce Opposition

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Tank-led marines, driving against rockets, bazooka-type guns and thick walled pillboxes, captured the south half of Iwo's central airfield yesterday.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed in his regular morning communiqué the Marines now hold virtually the south half of two through advances up to 500 yards.

On Iwo, the Marines are encountering some of the most modern weapons Japan has employed. Gains were paid for in blood every inch of the way past pillboxes.

Forrestal at Guam After Going Ashore During Iwo Battle

GUAM, Feb. 25.—Secretary of the Navy Forrestal is at Guam for a series of conferences with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz after personally going ashore at Iwo Jima.

The Navy announcement said Mr. Forrestal had made the voyage to Iwo Jima on a flag-ship and had visited ashore with the marines.

The Navy announced that Mr. Forrestal, Vice Admiral R. K. Turner and Lt. Gen. Holland Smith will make a personal report to the Nation in a pooled network broadcast today at 6:30 p.m. (Eastern war time).

The Navy announced that blockhouses and fortified caves. On one flank alone 100 caves, 30 to 40 feet deep, had to be knocked out.

The Marine invasion army of Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, perhaps exceeding 40,000 men, apparently passed the crisis on Iwo Friday and with steadily unloading equipment is north bound in accumulated power, screened by artillery, carrier planes and warship guns.

The headquarters announcement spoke of interlocking Japanese underground strongholds; it described pillboxes with buttresses four feet thick; it mentioned enemy rockets weighing about 1,000 pounds.

The three attacking divisions had to move across mine fields. The Leathernecks were panned by tanks, and the Japanese opposed them with weapons similar to the American bazookas and with rockets.

Seizure of the south half of Motoyama Airfield No. 2, which has two runways, puts the Devil Dogs where it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

The last report of Marine casualties dates back to 6 p.m. Wednesday when it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

Enemy artillery fire "into the interior of the area of our control" is diminishing, Admiral Nimitz said.

Battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the 5th Fleet kept pounding away as they have done since three days before the invasion opened Monday in a move to obtain air

(See IWO, Page A-2.)

Egypt's Premier Shot and Killed In Parliament

Attack by Assassin Follows Reading of Declaration of War

CAIRO, Feb. 24.—Prime Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt was shot and killed in the Chamber of Deputies tonight shortly after he had read a royal decree declaring war on the Axis.

The Prime Minister had just completed his reading of the decree by King Farouk and was leaving the chamber when three shots were fired at him from close range.

Witnesses said the assailant was a 22-year-old member of the extremist party and some identified him as a young lawyer. His name was not announced, although he was arrested immediately.

All three bullets struck Ahmed Maher in his stomach and he died half an hour later.

The King, notified of the attack on the Prime Minister, hurried to the parliamentary building at once.

Egypt and other nations of the Middle East had been expected to enter the war against Germany and Japan since Turkey's declaration yesterday.

Government sources said the decision to join the Allies was the consequence of recent conferences conducted with Middle Eastern leaders near here by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

It was after these meetings that (See EGYPT, Page A-16.)

30 Towns Taken In Plunge 5 Miles Beyond Roer

3,315 SORTIES FLOWN IN support of west front offensive. Page A-5.

PARIS, Sunday, Feb. 25.—The American 1st and 9th Armies plunged nearly 5 miles across the Cologne Plain beyond the shattered Roer River defense line yesterday, engulfing 30 towns and villages and capturing thousands of the German force on the west bank of the Rhine.

At dusk on the second day of the powerful push—by German account "the greatest offensive Eisenhower has ever staged"—American spearheads were 12 miles from the Western Ruhr Basin and 19 from Cologne, and had won half of the Roer River bastion of Dueren.

Nearest announced approaches to Cologne were at Oberzier and Niederzier, villages between Juelich and Dueren and each 19 miles from Cologne's outskirts.

Von Rundstedt Rushes Reserves.
The thunderous battle flamed along a 22-mile front. Massed artillery was smashing German villages in the path of the surging ground forces, and battle planes bombed and machinegunned columns of Germans trying to reach the front. Rail traffic was paralyzed.

A late report said Marshal Von Rundstedt was rushing German reserves from the south into the battle on the approaches to Duesseldorf and Cologne. Other than this report there still was no sign that the enemy was ready to make a new stand.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's 9th Army on the north flank of the offensive gained momentum after smashing through Baal, 12 miles southwest of Muenchen Gladbach, an industrial city of 200,000 at the western fringe of the Ruhr.

High ground was seized beyond Baal and Gen. Simpson's troops were astride the railway to Muenchen Gladbach. They were 25 miles from the big Ruhr center of Duesseldorf.

Hundreds of Prisoners Taken.
Three miles to the southeast troops of the 102d Division captured Hottorf, 5 miles north of American-held Juelich, and also completely cleared the enemy from Gelnich, Glimbach, Teitz, Bostlar and other villages in the area.

Troops of this spearhead also were about 25 miles from Duesseldorf. The capture of Hottorf and the plunge beyond put the Americans 8 miles from the Ert River, where a new German stand may be made 10 miles from the Rhine.

The 102d Division alone took more than 800 prisoners since they jumped off east of Linnich, and both the 9th and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army had taken at least 1,400 in the first 24 hours of the offensive. Hundreds more were streaming back into the prison pens yesterday.

Both armies had swarmed up on high ground dominating the Cologne Plain, and front reports said the offensive was ahead of schedule.

Half of Dueren Cleared.
In the center, American forces captured Niederzier, 19 miles west of Cologne, and nearby Hambach. A German column trying to flee from Hambach Forest was wiped out by artillery fire. The enemy in the past has used wooded areas for stands costly to the Allies.

The 1st Army cleared half of bomb-shattered Dueren and captured the towns of Birkesdorf and Niederau, which flank it on the north and south, and the 104th Division fought on into Arnoldsweller, 2 miles northeast of Dueren. The 104th and the 8th Division, operating on its southern flank, presumably both have troops inside Dueren.

Marines Seize Half of Second Iwo Airfield

Up to 500 Yards Gained Against Fierce Opposition

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Tank-led marines, driving against rockets, bazooka-type guns and thick walled pillboxes, captured the south half of Iwo's central airfield yesterday.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed in his regular morning communiqué the Marines now hold virtually the south half of two through advances up to 500 yards.

On Iwo, the Marines are encountering some of the most modern weapons Japan has employed. Gains were paid for in blood every inch of the way past pillboxes.

Forrestal at Guam After Going Ashore During Iwo Battle

GUAM, Feb. 25.—Secretary of the Navy Forrestal is at Guam for a series of conferences with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz after personally going ashore at Iwo Jima.

The Navy announcement said Mr. Forrestal had made the voyage to Iwo Jima on a flag-ship and had visited ashore with the marines.

The Navy announced that blockhouses and fortified caves. On one flank alone 100 caves, 30 to 40 feet deep, had to be knocked out.

The Marine invasion army of Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, perhaps exceeding 40,000 men, apparently passed the crisis on Iwo Friday and with steadily unloading equipment is north bound in accumulated power, screened by artillery, carrier planes and warship guns.

The headquarters announcement spoke of interlocking Japanese underground strongholds; it described pillboxes with buttresses four feet thick; it mentioned enemy rockets weighing about 1,000 pounds.

The three attacking divisions had to move across mine fields. The Leathernecks were panned by tanks, and the Japanese opposed them with weapons similar to the American bazookas and with rockets.

Seizure of the south half of Motoyama Airfield No. 2, which has two runways, puts the Devil Dogs where it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

The last report of Marine casualties dates back to 6 p.m. Wednesday when it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

Enemy artillery fire "into the interior of the area of our control" is diminishing, Admiral Nimitz said.

Battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the 5th Fleet kept pounding away as they have done since three days before the invasion opened Monday in a move to obtain air

(See IWO, Page A-2.)

30 Towns Taken In Plunge 5 Miles Beyond Roer

3,315 SORTIES FLOWN IN support of west front offensive. Page A-5.

PARIS, Sunday, Feb. 25.—The American 1st and 9th Armies plunged nearly 5 miles across the Cologne Plain beyond the shattered Roer River defense line yesterday, engulfing 30 towns and villages and capturing thousands of the German force on the west bank of the Rhine.

At dusk on the second day of the powerful push—by German account "the greatest offensive Eisenhower has ever staged"—American spearheads were 12 miles from the Western Ruhr Basin and 19 from Cologne, and had won half of the Roer River bastion of Dueren.

Nearest announced approaches to Cologne were at Oberzier and Niederzier, villages between Juelich and Dueren and each 19 miles from Cologne's outskirts.

Von Rundstedt Rushes Reserves.
The thunderous battle flamed along a 22-mile front. Massed artillery was smashing German villages in the path of the surging ground forces, and battle planes bombed and machinegunned columns of Germans trying to reach the front. Rail traffic was paralyzed.

A late report said Marshal Von Rundstedt was rushing German reserves from the south into the battle on the approaches to Duesseldorf and Cologne. Other than this report there still was no sign that the enemy was ready to make a new stand.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's 9th Army on the north flank of the offensive gained momentum after smashing through Baal, 12 miles southwest of Muenchen Gladbach, an industrial city of 200,000 at the western fringe of the Ruhr.

High ground was seized beyond Baal and Gen. Simpson's troops were astride the railway to Muenchen Gladbach. They were 25 miles from the big Ruhr center of Duesseldorf.

Hundreds of Prisoners Taken.
Three miles to the southeast troops of the 102d Division captured Hottorf, 5 miles north of American-held Juelich, and also completely cleared the enemy from Gelnich, Glimbach, Teitz, Bostlar and other villages in the area.

Troops of this spearhead also were about 25 miles from Duesseldorf. The capture of Hottorf and the plunge beyond put the Americans 8 miles from the Ert River, where a new German stand may be made 10 miles from the Rhine.

The 102d Division alone took more than 800 prisoners since they jumped off east of Linnich, and both the 9th and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army had taken at least 1,400 in the first 24 hours of the offensive. Hundreds more were streaming back into the prison pens yesterday.

Both armies had swarmed up on high ground dominating the Cologne Plain, and front reports said the offensive was ahead of schedule.

Half of Dueren Cleared.
In the center, American forces captured Niederzier, 19 miles west of Cologne, and nearby Hambach. A German column trying to flee from Hambach Forest was wiped out by artillery fire. The enemy in the past has used wooded areas for stands costly to the Allies.

The 1st Army cleared half of bomb-shattered Dueren and captured the towns of Birkesdorf and Niederau, which flank it on the north and south, and the 104th Division fought on into Arnoldsweller, 2 miles northeast of Dueren. The 104th and the 8th Division, operating on its southern flank, presumably both have troops inside Dueren.

Four towns on the west bank of the Roer, beyond the northernmost sector of the bridgehead northwest of Linnich, were taken by American troops who closed up to the river on a 6-mile stretch of the west bank, which had not been cleared previously. They were Porselen, Oberstruck, Kempen and Schanz.

Engineers, at the cost of the highest casualties since D-day, finally erected bridges across the

Two additional men from the District area have been reported killed in this war. See "On the Honor Roll," Page A-2.

(See WESTERN FRONT, Pg. A-5.)

Point Values of Margarine and Cooking Oils Boosted

Ration values of lard, shortening, salad and cooking oils and margarine were increased 2 points a pound by the Office of Price Administration last night "because of a tight supply situation."

Margarine goes to 5 red points a pound, and the other items to 4 each, effective immediately.

Creamery butter will continue at 24 red points a pound and farm butter at 12 points, OPA said.

Marines Seize Half of Second Iwo Airfield

Up to 500 Yards Gained Against Fierce Opposition

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Tank-led marines, driving against rockets, bazooka-type guns and thick walled pillboxes, captured the south half of Iwo's central airfield yesterday.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed in his regular morning communiqué the Marines now hold virtually the south half of two through advances up to 500 yards.

On Iwo, the Marines are encountering some of the most modern weapons Japan has employed. Gains were paid for in blood every inch of the way past pillboxes.

Forrestal at Guam After Going Ashore During Iwo Battle

GUAM, Feb. 25.—Secretary of the Navy Forrestal is at Guam for a series of conferences with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz after personally going ashore at Iwo Jima.

The Navy announcement said Mr. Forrestal had made the voyage to Iwo Jima on a flag-ship and had visited ashore with the marines.

The Navy announced that blockhouses and fortified caves. On one flank alone 100 caves, 30 to 40 feet deep, had to be knocked out.

The Marine invasion army of Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, perhaps exceeding 40,000 men, apparently passed the crisis on Iwo Friday and with steadily unloading equipment is north bound in accumulated power, screened by artillery, carrier planes and warship guns.

The headquarters announcement spoke of interlocking Japanese underground strongholds; it described pillboxes with buttresses four feet thick; it mentioned enemy rockets weighing about 1,000 pounds.

The three attacking divisions had to move across mine fields. The Leathernecks were panned by tanks, and the Japanese opposed them with weapons similar to the American bazookas and with rockets.

Seizure of the south half of Motoyama Airfield No. 2, which has two runways, puts the Devil Dogs where it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

The last report of Marine casualties dates back to 6 p.m. Wednesday when it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

Enemy artillery fire "into the interior of the area of our control" is diminishing, Admiral Nimitz said.

Battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the 5th Fleet kept pounding away as they have done since three days before the invasion opened Monday in a move to obtain air

(See IWO, Page A-2.)

30 Towns Taken In Plunge 5 Miles Beyond Roer

3,315 SORTIES FLOWN IN support of west front offensive. Page A-5.

PARIS, Sunday, Feb. 25.—The American 1st and 9th Armies plunged nearly 5 miles across the Cologne Plain beyond the shattered Roer River defense line yesterday, engulfing 30 towns and villages and capturing thousands of the German force on the west bank of the Rhine.

At dusk on the second day of the powerful push—by German account "the greatest offensive Eisenhower has ever staged"—American spearheads were 12 miles from the Western Ruhr Basin and 19 from Cologne, and had won half of the Roer River bastion of Dueren.

Nearest announced approaches to Cologne were at Oberzier and Niederzier, villages between Juelich and Dueren and each 19 miles from Cologne's outskirts.

Von Rundstedt Rushes Reserves.
The thunderous battle flamed along a 22-mile front. Massed artillery was smashing German villages in the path of the surging ground forces, and battle planes bombed and machinegunned columns of Germans trying to reach the front. Rail traffic was paralyzed.

A late report said Marshal Von Rundstedt was rushing German reserves from the south into the battle on the approaches to Duesseldorf and Cologne. Other than this report there still was no sign that the enemy was ready to make a new stand.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's 9th Army on the north flank of the offensive gained momentum after smashing through Baal, 12 miles southwest of Muenchen Gladbach, an industrial city of 200,000 at the western fringe of the Ruhr.

High ground was seized beyond Baal and Gen. Simpson's troops were astride the railway to Muenchen Gladbach. They were 25 miles from the big Ruhr center of Duesseldorf.

Hundreds of Prisoners Taken.
Three miles to the southeast troops of the 102d Division captured Hottorf, 5 miles north of American-held Juelich, and also completely cleared the enemy from Gelnich, Glimbach, Teitz, Bostlar and other villages in the area.

Troops of this spearhead also were about 25 miles from Duesseldorf. The capture of Hottorf and the plunge beyond put the Americans 8 miles from the Ert River, where a new German stand may be made 10 miles from the Rhine.

The 102d Division alone took more than 800 prisoners since they jumped off east of Linnich, and both the 9th and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army had taken at least 1,400 in the first 24 hours of the offensive. Hundreds more were streaming back into the prison pens yesterday.

Both armies had swarmed up on high ground dominating the Cologne Plain, and front reports said the offensive was ahead of schedule.

Half of Dueren Cleared.
In the center, American forces captured Niederzier, 19 miles west of Cologne, and nearby Hambach. A German column trying to flee from Hambach Forest was wiped out by artillery fire. The enemy in the past has used wooded areas for stands costly to the Allies.

The 1st Army cleared half of bomb-shattered Dueren and captured the towns of Birkesdorf and Niederau, which flank it on the north and south, and the 104th Division fought on into Arnoldsweller, 2 miles northeast of Dueren. The 104th and the 8th Division, operating on its southern flank, presumably both have troops inside Dueren.

Four towns on the west bank of the Roer, beyond the northernmost sector of the bridgehead northwest of Linnich, were taken by American troops who closed up to the river on a 6-mile stretch of the west bank, which had not been cleared previously. They were Porselen, Oberstruck, Kempen and Schanz.

Engineers, at the cost of the highest casualties since D-day, finally erected bridges across the

Two additional men from the District area have been reported killed in this war. See "On the Honor Roll," Page A-2.

(See WESTERN FRONT, Pg. A-5.)

Point Values of Margarine and Cooking Oils Boosted

Ration values of lard, shortening, salad and cooking oils and margarine were increased 2 points a pound by the Office of Price Administration last night "because of a tight supply situation."

Margarine goes to 5 red points a pound, and the other items to 4 each, effective immediately.

Creamery butter will continue at 24 red points a pound and farm butter at 12 points, OPA said.

Marines Seize Half of Second Iwo Airfield

Up to 500 Yards Gained Against Fierce Opposition

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Tank-led marines, driving against rockets, bazooka-type guns and thick walled pillboxes, captured the south half of Iwo's central airfield yesterday.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed in his regular morning communiqué the Marines now hold virtually the south half of two through advances up to 500 yards.

On Iwo, the Marines are encountering some of the most modern weapons Japan has employed. Gains were paid for in blood every inch of the way past pillboxes.

Forrestal at Guam After Going Ashore During Iwo Battle

GUAM, Feb. 25.—Secretary of the Navy Forrestal is at Guam for a series of conferences with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz after personally going ashore at Iwo Jima.

The Navy announcement said Mr. Forrestal had made the voyage to Iwo Jima on a flag-ship and had visited ashore with the marines.

The Navy announced that blockhouses and fortified caves. On one flank alone 100 caves, 30 to 40 feet deep, had to be knocked out.

The Marine invasion army of Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, perhaps exceeding 40,000 men, apparently passed the crisis on Iwo Friday and with steadily unloading equipment is north bound in accumulated power, screened by artillery, carrier planes and warship guns.

The headquarters announcement spoke of interlocking Japanese underground strongholds; it described pillboxes with buttresses four feet thick; it mentioned enemy rockets weighing about 1,000 pounds.

The three attacking divisions had to move across mine fields. The Leathernecks were panned by tanks, and the Japanese opposed them with weapons similar to the American bazookas and with rockets.

Seizure of the south half of Motoyama Airfield No. 2, which has two runways, puts the Devil Dogs where it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

The last report of Marine casualties dates back to 6 p.m. Wednesday when it was placed at 5,372, including more than 600 killed.

Enemy artillery fire "into the interior of the area of our control" is diminishing, Admiral Nimitz said.

Battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the 5th Fleet kept pounding away as they have done since three days before the invasion opened Monday in a move to obtain air

(See IWO, Page A-2.)

30 Towns Taken In Plunge 5 Miles Beyond Roer

3,315 SORTIES FLOWN IN support of west front offensive. Page A-5.

PARIS, Sunday, Feb. 25.—The American 1st and 9th Armies plunged nearly 5 miles across the Cologne Plain beyond the shattered Roer River defense line yesterday, engulfing 30 towns and villages and capturing thousands of the German force on the west bank of the Rhine.

At dusk on the second day of the powerful push—by German account "